

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 3, 2022

Support of Budget Proposals for Governor Newsom’s 30 X 30 Initiative

30x30 is a global movement to conserve 30% of the earth’s lands and waters by 2030 to avert an extinction crisis. In October 2020, Governor Newsom signed his Nature Based Solutions [Executive Order N-82-20](#), elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change and advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority. As part of this Executive Order, California committed to the goal of conserving 30% of our lands and coastal waters by 2030.

California is considered one of 36 “biodiversity hotspots” in the world due to the state’s high concentration of unique plant and animal species that are also experiencing unprecedented threats from climate change and human development. 30x30 provides California an opportunity to continue our decades of ambitious climate and environmental leadership by protecting and restoring our world-renowned natural resources, promoting climate resilience, addressing inequities in environmental protection and access to nature, and bolstering regional economies.

To meet the 30x30 goal, California will need to conserve approximately six

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million acres of land and 500,000 acres of coastal waters in the next eight years. While some of this conservation will include increasing conservation management on already public lands, it is still going to take considerable investment by the state to support acquisition, restoration and ongoing management of lands and waters, including capacity-building to allow for staffing at state agencies, tribes, land trusts and community-based organizations.

The Governor's proposed January budget includes \$1.15 billion proposed for multi-benefit nature-based climate solutions over the next two years, including support for tribal conservation initiatives. It also includes \$600 million for coastal protection and resilience. This proposal includes the five-year agreement between the Administration and legislature to invest in climate resilience efforts and projects in last year's budget. While California has made a good first step in investing in conservation through last year's budget agreement and we strongly support those investments, the final 2022-23 budget must include an increase in funding to ensure that the state, and its partners such as the County of Los Angeles, can achieve these important conservation, climate, and equity goals.

It is imperative the legislature include in their final budget \$2 billion over two years (\$1 billion annually) for biodiversity conservation and \$1 billion for coastal protection and resilience. This state funding can be used to leverage private funding and existing federal funding (e.g., the Land and Water Conservation Fund). The budget should also include a set aside of 50% for equity investments including capacity building for tribes, community non-profit organizations, land trusts and resources conservation districts.

Additionally, the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation (DPR) is in the process of completing a major study called the Regional and Rural Edition (RRE), which is a focused update of the groundbreaking 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA). The RRE specifically focuses on the need for and access to regional recreational facilities, natural areas, open spaces, beaches, lakes, and regional trails, as well as local parks in rural areas. As part of this study, we have completed a comprehensive inventory, mapping, and analysis of public lands which can serve as a foundation to Los Angeles County's own 30x30 initiative and address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

In addition to the conservation of additional natural areas, the restoration of degraded lands is of great significance and a matter of environmental justice in a county like ours where numerous urban communities face environmental burdens. Thus, as part of the RRE, DPR has identified and mapped areas that should be prioritized for environmental conservation as well as those that should be prioritized for environmental restoration. Areas identified for environmental restoration include communities that have the most environmental burdens with respect to groundwater threat, hazardous waste, poor air quality, pollution burden, etc.

Per the State's 30x30 Conservation of Lands Advisory Panel Summary Document dated August 3, 2021, the 30x30 initiative should work towards not only protecting lands that are already conserved, but also towards restoring and incorporating lands with potential to support multiple benefits. For instance, here in L.A. County, the Puente Hills which contains the 2nd largest landfill in the country is an opportunity to create the first new regional park in the County in over 30 years while providing habitat connectivity and

much needed park space. In addition, the Baldwin Hills consists primarily of degraded oil fields, but have the potential to be restored into park land that provides equitable access to park-poor communities. Managing entities, such as DPR, State Parks, and State Conservancies, should be able to participate in incentive programs for transitioning degraded lands along the conservation spectrum towards restored and regenerative ecosystems, even if they are not counted as conserved for 30x30 until conservation criteria are satisfactorily reached.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the County's Sacramento Legislative Advocates to advocate in support of proposals of \$2 Billion in funding, with 50% set aside for equity investments, to be used for programs in FY22-23 and FY 23-24 which will provide for achieving 30 X 30 goals consistent with Executive Order N-82-20.

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